

CIS Advisory Committee- Networking Subcommittee

Meeting 2/22/2018, 6:00 PM, A-1228

Present: Adam Larsen, Cohen Barnes, Mike Ebner, Dave Kornfeind, RJ McGarry, Paul Gullman, Dave Klick

Ate and socialized starting a little before 6:00 PM

Meeting started at 6:15PM. Called to order by Adam.

Materials passed out: Kishwaukee College Annual Report, Program planners for all CIS degrees and certificates, description of networking degree - network administration option, and a list of all courses in the networking degree network admin option with course descriptions.

The annual report was briefly discussed and the enrollment decline was noted.

Questions regarding the viability and relevance of the networking part of the CIS program were discussed. Some of the main points of the discussion:

- Cohen pointed out that industry certifications mean more than college certificates and degrees to many employers. The program should strive to get the students industry certified.
- Instructors in networking have to be given support for professional development in the field or they will be out of date in about five years.
- RJ pointed out that almost all businesses needed an IT person in the past, but so much works better out of the box now, that companies feel they can get along without their own IT person. They can call for help from a company like Cohen's if needed.
- Cohen stated that his company would prefer to hire people with industry credentials, and would prefer a computer science four year degree from NIU over a two year degree or certificate from a community college. They do not trust community college networking degrees and certifications as much, and they feel confident the four year degree person can be taught the needed skills relatively quickly.
- The committee members thought in general that there might not be enough demand in the local area to employ ten or more networking graduates each year. Some of the students would have to be looking toward moving out of the local area or using the degree as a stepping stone.
- If IT professionals are returning to pick up specific skills, then industry certifications are vital.
- The local employment prospects for Kish graduates seem to be mainly schools, the hospitals, and local government.
- Sundog (the main local IT support company) requires A+ and Network+ certifications.
- Is there a way Kish can require industry certifications be passed as part of the program? Do other schools (such as Waubensee, Rock Valley) have such requirements? How would the class work to require that the test be taken and passed in order to pass a course? Can the school get verification, and if so, can it be done in time for final grades to be turned in? What would the cost be? Could students opt out of it to save money? Could the testing be done here at the school's testing center?
- If the school wants a vibrant networking program here at Kish, they need to hire a full-time faculty member to keep courses up-to-date.

The committee looked over the courses and contents of courses in the networking program. Mike Ebner, Dave Kornfeind, and Paul Gullman were able to provide details about the contents of many of the courses. Overall, it was felt that the courses made sense for what the programs were trying to achieve content-wise. The only requirement that was questioned was the programming courses (option of CIS 150 or CIS 160). There was general agreement that a new PowerShell course to take the place of CIS 150 or CIS 160 would be much more beneficial for networking administrators.

Plans made for next meeting:

- Create an email survey to send out to graduates asking if the program met their needs and expectations, what could be improved, and what worked well for them. Adam will look into this and contact Matt Crull.
- Create a survey for current CIS students asking what their plans/goals are and what they think is working or needs changes program-wise. Dave Klick will take care of this.
- Get survey data before talking to administration. Then ask administration leadership what they expect from the program and the committee.
- The next meeting is mainly to review the survey data and propose a plan.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3/22/2018, 6:00 PM, A-1228.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM